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1258 25X1CLASSIFICATION SECRET/CONTROL - U.S. OFFICIALS ONLYCOUNTRY East Germany

REPORT

TOPIC Elbe Project in Neubrandenburg

25X1 EVALUATION                      PLACE OBTAINED                      25X1  
 25X1 DATE OF CONTENT                       
 25X1 DATE OBTAINED                      DATE PREPARED 13 August 1953

REFERENCES                     PAGES 2 ENCLOSURES (NO. & TYPE)                     REMARKS                      25X1

25X1 1. Project Elbe is a code designation for the construction of an experimental  
 25X1 tank shop for the assembly and repair of T-34 tanks. The installation is  
 25X1 to be erected on the shore of Lake Tollense near Neubrandenburg.                       
 25X1                      the designs for the project, which had been ordered  
 25X1 by the Ministry of the Interior, were essentially completed by 17 June 1953.  
 25X1 The completion date for the project was 31 December 1953. The Lichtenberg I  
 Designs Bureau was only responsible for the designs of buildings No 2  
 (assembly and repair), No 8 (chemical plant), No 17 (boiler house), and  
 No 26 (paint shop).                     

2. The execution of Project Elbe was supervised by VP Major Berndt, an ex-  
 captain of the former German Army. Berndt was tank instructor of the KVP  
 division in Eggesin before he became ordnance officer at the Priemerwald  
 Tank School                      the tank plates were to be delivered by  
 25X1 the firm of Kranbau in Eberswalde, weapons and turrets by the USSR; the  
 25X1 interior equipment inclusive of radio equipment by the administration of  
 East German nationalized radio and telecommunication engineering firms.

3.                       
 25X1                      The Soviet engineer had  
 25X1 built a similar tank plant in Stalingrad which had been in operation for  
 several months. One of the main features of this installation was a  
 concrete road through part of the Volga River, on which tanks were to be  
 tested as to their capability of crossing water. A similar road is scheduled  
 to be built in Neubrandenburg from building No 2 through Lake Tollense  
 which is about 35 meters distant from this shop.

25X1                      Comment. Information on Project Elbe was transmitted previously.  
 25X1                      While the previous  
 reports mentioned the establishment of a KVP tank repair shop, the present  
 report for the first time speaks of an experimental tank shop. This in-  
 formation could not be verified. On the basis of information available,  
 Project Elbe may either involve the construction of  
 a. a KVP tank repair shop;  
 b. an experimental tank shop either of the Soviet Army or the KVP;

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- 2 -



- c. a tank assembly plant with an attached repair shop exclusively working for the KVP. Major Berndt was known previously.

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